

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9023

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: CASC YO (MRAOVITCH, DAVID)
SUBJ: MRAOVITCH CASE

REF: BELGRADE 8133 AND PREVIOUS

1. CONSUL MET WITH SIMONOVIC OF FSFA CONSULAR DEPARTMENT ON DEC 14. SIMONOVIC AGAIN APPEARED SYMPATHETIC BUT REPEATED THAT THERE NOTHING GOY CAN DO IN ABSENCE OF COURT DECISION. WHEN CONSUL MENTIONED THAT ANDONOV HAD SUGGESTED EMBASSY MIGHT OBTAIN EXIT VISA FOR DAVID, SIMONOVIC IMMEDIATELY REPLIED THAT "THINGS ARE NOT SO SIMPLE AS MIGHT APPEAR IN WASHINGTON." CONSUL GOT THE DEFINITE IMPRESSION THAT FSFA HAD ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH INTERNAL AFFAIRS SECRETARIAT AND HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THIS ROUTE NOT POSSIBLE.

2. SIMONOVIC SAID THAT IF MRS. MRAOVITCH INITIATES COURT ACTION HERE, HE WOULD APPROACH COURT UNOFFICIALLY TO DO WHAT HE COULD TO SEE THAT SPEEDY DECISION RENDERED. HE ALSO SAID THAT EMBASSY COULD SENT LETTER OR OTHER WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO COURT.

3. CONSUL DISCUSSED CASE WITH MRS. MRAOVITCH'S BELGRADE ATTORNEY, DJORDJE DJURISIC, ON DEC 15. HE SAID THAT HE HAD RECENTLY WRITTEN BOTH BORDEN AND MRS. MRAOVITCH'S PARENTS EXPLAINING THAT CASE A VERY DIFFICULT ONE BECAUSE DAVID ALSO HAS YUGOSLAV LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BELGRA 08267 171546Z

CITIZENSHIP AND ENTERED YUGOSLAVIA ON A YUGOSLAV PASSPORT. DJURISIC REMAINS SKEPTICAL ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF WINNING COURT CASE ESPECIALLY IF COURT KNOWS MRS. MRAOVITCH WOULD WANT TO TAKE DAVID BACK TO U.S. MRS. MRAOVITCH HAS APPOINTMENT WITH DJURISIC TO DISCUSS CASE AGAIN ON DEC 18.

4. IF MRS. MRAOVITCH DECIDES NOT TO PURSUE COURT CASE FOR NOW, EMBASSY SEES NO ALTERNATIVE BUT FOR HER TO CONTINUE TO PLAY ALONG WITH HER HUSBAND, LOOK FOR AN APARTMENT AND A JOB, ETC. HER HUSBAND IS STILL VERY SUSPICIOUS OF HER. ACCORDING TO MRS. MRAOVITCH, HER HUSBAND WOULD LIKE TO RETURN TO THE U.S., IN ORDER TO BRING BACK SOME OF HIS ACADEMIC PAPERS, TO TALK TO A PROFESSOR AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ABOUT A RESEARCH PROJECT, AND TO ATTEND A WEDDING OF MRS. MRAOVITCH'S COUSIN IN NEW YORK IN MID-JANUARY. HER HUSBAND HAS APPARENTLY SUGGESTED THAT THEY GO BACK THEN, LEAVING DAVID HERE.

5. MRS. MRAOVITCH TOLD AMBASSADOR AND CONSUL THAT HER U.S. ATTORNEY HAD ASSURED HER THAT HER HUSBAND WOULD BE ARRESTED (PRESUMABLY FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT) ON HIS RETURN TO THE U.S. POSSIBILITY WOULD THEN EXIST FOR MRS. MRAOVITCH'S FAMILY TO TRY TO ARRANGE A DEAL: DAVID'S RETURN TO U.S. IN EXCHANGE FOR DROPPING CHARGES AGAINST MRAOVITCH. ALL OF THIS WOULD OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT WITH JUDGE AND HER U.S. ATTORNEY.

6. IF MRS. MRAOVITCH COULD GET DAVID'S YUGOSLAV PASSPORT, THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR AN EXIT VISA. IT WOULD SEEM THAT ONLY POSSIBILITY FOR THIS WOULD BE IF SHE IS ABLE TO GAIN HER HUSBAND'S CONFIDENCE.

7. MRS. MRAOVITCH'S GRANDMOTHER WILL BE RETURNING TO THE U.S. ON TUESDAY, DEC 21.

8. AMBASSADOR REQUESTS DESK TO CHECK WITH PER TO SEE IF THERE ANY POSSIBILITY EMBASSY COULD HIRE MRS. MRAOVITCH ON TEMPORARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BELGRA 08267 171546Z

BASIS IN ORDER TO LEND CREDIBILITY TO HER STORY. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, PERHAPS WE COULD SET UP SOME FAKE JOB WITH HER FATHER PROVIDING THE FUNDS THROUGH A WASHINGTON BANK. IF THIS WOULD BE DONE IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR DEPARTMENT TO CONFIRM HER EMPLOYEMENT IF HER HUSBAND EVER CHECKED.
SILBERMAN

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